

**SOCIAL STRATIFICATION REFLECTED IN KIERA CASS'S *THE  
SELECTION* NOVEL (2012): A MARXIST THEORY**



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for Getting Bachelor Degree of Education  
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**APPROVAL**

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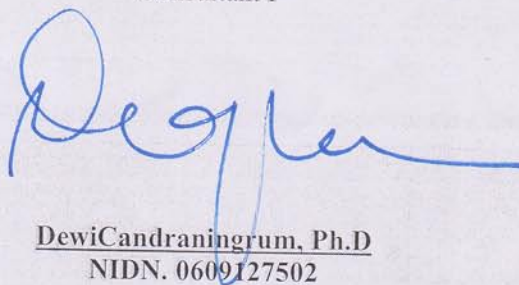
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## ACCEPTANCE

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### TESTIMONY

Here with, I testify that in this research proposal, there is no such thing as plagiarism of the previous literary work which has been raised to obtain bachelor degree, nor there are opinions or masterpiece which have been written or published by others, except those which are referred in the manuscript and mentioned in the literary review and bibliography. Therefore, if it is proved that there are some untrue statements in this testimony. I will hold full responsibility.

Surakarta, 2 April 2018

The Researcher



Fauzia Damas Nungkiastuti

# **SOCIAL STRATIFICATION REFLECTED IN KIERA CASS'S THE SELECTION NOVEL (2012) : A MARXIST THEORY**

## **ABSTRAK**

Penelitian ini bertujuan menjelaskan tentang stratifikasi sosial yang terjadi dalam karya Kiera Cass pada novel *Selection* (2012) menggunakan teori marxist. Novel *Selection* (2012) dianalisis merujuk pada dua poin. Pertama adalah analisis kasta pada masyarakat negeri Ilea, kedua adalah analisis mengenai stratifikasi sosial menggunakan teori marxist. Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan deskriptif kualitatif. Penelitian ini juga menggunakan dua sumber data, data yang pertama novel dari karya Kiera Cass berjudul *selection*. Sumber data kedua berasal dari buku dan internet. Penelitian ini menyimpulkan beberapa kesimpulan. Pertama adalah beberapa kasta di kerajaan melalui analisis social dari dalam novel. Yang kedua adalah stratifikasi social berdasarkan teori marxist.

**Kata Kunci:** *Stratifikasi Sosial, Kasta, Teori marxist*

## **ABSTRACT**

This research study explains about social stratification *selection* (2012) novel by Kiera Cass using Marxist theory. *Selection* (1992) novel analysis refers to two points. First is the caste analysis on the novel, the second is an analysis of social stratification in use the theory of Marxist. This research uses descriptive qualitative approach. This study uses two sources of data, the first is *selection* (2012) novel by Kiera Cass which is the main source of this novel. The second source of data is the searching from books, journals, author biographies, and research-related sources. The two types of sources are obtained through libraries and the internet analyzed using descriptive analysis. Based on these studies, the researcher concluded some conclusions. The first is analyze the caste in Ilea kingdom based on *The Selection* (2012) novel. The second is based on the Marxist theory.

**Keywords:** *Social stratification, Caste, Marxist Theory*

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

Social stratification or social pyramid is happen in long time since now. Stratification came from Latin word "*Strata*" it is mean as layer. Stratification can be interpreted as society distinction into some class in storey. Every community in this world has some precious things like wealth, authority or dignity, that aspect as benchmark of social stratification. Stratification is happen because the role of each individual. Individual as

social human they cannot avoid each other when there is social interaction between of them. The person who has nature of human social is the key how individual can adapt with their environment where they live. It is the one aspect that influent how the society is build.

Stratification in the community is exist by itself or accidently is exist because the community itself who made the stratification in their environment base on some individual who have different level each other and be sort from low level until high level. Seokanto (1982: 221) said that social stratification that happen itself have basic coating base on intelligent, seniority, the nature of the authenticity of the head of a kindred society membership, and may also be based upon the treasure (wealth and specific reasons).

The community will make social stratification into social classes. Social class can be identification as strata (layer) peoples who have same position in continuum of social status, Horton, Paul B., Chester L. Hunt (1999: 5). Social class is the important reality that really happen in the community, not just a concept but the people itself who make some classification others for their community into some organization or the same position or layer into some layers likes same position, people who has high position or more lowest.

*The Selection* novel is a literary work that tells about America Singer is a girl form caste number five who lived with her family whose profession as entertainer. As someone who came from caste number five, exactly his life is so simple. To the extent she and her family must share food each others. One day, come up a contest looking for a best princess in the country to become a wife of Maxon prince. Every girl is so excited with the competition and wants it to be one of thirty five contestants. How not, if they are qualify and become a contestant, so their caste will climb up from lower caste to caste number three.



### 1.1. Problem Statement

Considering the background above, the problem in this research is how social stratification is exist in the Illea through Kiera Cass's *The Selection* novel.

### 1.2. Limitation of Study

The researcher focuses this research in analyzing social stratification in Kiera Cass's *The Selection* novel (2012) on Marxist theory.

### 1.3. Literary Review

The researcher, Itsna Syahadatud Dinuriyah from UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya in 2017 with the title is "Pastiche of Cinderella in Kiera Cass' *The Selection*: A Postmodern Study". This research aims to examine *The Selection* as a pastiche or imitation of Cinderella as the older work. It focuses on the narrative of *The Selection* novel as the object of the study. In analyzing the object of the study, this research uses Fredric Jameson's pastiche of postmodernism. The result shows the evidences of *The Selection* as a postmodern literature, including the mixing genres, portrayal of consumer society, and deathlessness through the character. Besides, there are some repetition aspects which *The Selection* imitates from Cinderella's story.

### 1.4. Underlying Theory

In this chapter the researcher discusses about the theory which is used to analyze *The Selection* novel that written by Kiera Cass. The theory which used is Marxist theory. This theory of Marxist is proposed by Karl Marx. This chapter consist into three parts, namely; Underlying Theory that is divided into seven parts, Social Stratification, The Coverage of Social Stratification, The Process of Social Stratification, Trait and Shape of Social Stratification, The History of Marxist Theory,

#### 1.4.1 Marxist Theory

Seokanto (1982: 221) said that the social stratification that occurs by itself has a base coating based on age, level of cleverness (seniority), the nature of the authenticity of the head of kindred society membership, and may also be based upon the treasure (wealth) and certain reasons. In the social stratification the authenticity of the head of kindred society membership is one of the reasons to make some individual must be placed in the best or right place that make them more be dignity.

In the Marxist theory exactly must be related with social class. Social class is society itself. Lenin, is the leader of Russia Revolution in 1714, interpret the social class as social group in an arrangements society which decided by particular position in production process (Magnis-Suseno, 1999:111). But in the other side, Marx in (Magnis-Suseno, 1999: 112) thinks that social class and society clan is two different sides. Social class is the special symptom of post-feudal, while society clan is what generally calls as caste. Social class in objective view as social clan with self-interest and in the subjective view is special clan in society who has special interests with want to fighting for.

## 2. RESEARCH METHOD

In this research the researcher analyzes *The Selection* novel by using descriptive qualitative research which consist of method of collecting, describing, classifying, analyzing data and drawing the conclusion .The material and the object of the study come from Kiera Cass's *the selection novel*



### **3. RESEARCH FINDING AND DISCUSSION**

#### **3.1 Social Stratification analysis**

Social stratification is divided and classification of social elements in the society to become some of castes (high to low). Social stratification is systems that apply in the society life. The higher of caste is more strong the power and authority that ones have in their caste. Based on the object of the study is *The Selection* novel. Social stratification is one the issue in the novel, it is related with the content of the novel that telling about the life's caste and classification in Ilea Kingdom.

In this *Selection* novel there are eight castes in Ilea Kingdom that have different characteristic and occupation as follows:

##### **3.1.1. The First Caste**

The first caste, the higher caste and owned by family kingdom and spiritual figure. This family kingdom consists of King Clarkson, Queen Amberly, and the prince; Maxon. There are highest caste and have big power or authority.

*“The picture of the royal family came into view. Standing at a podium was King Clarkson. His advisers, who had updates on infrastructure and some environmental concerns, were seated to one side, and the camera cut to show them. It looked like there would be several announcements tonight. On the left of the screen, the queen and prince Maxon sat in their typical cluster of throne like seats and elegant clothes, looking regal and important.” (The Selection:22)*

This quote explained that, that is imagine of the Illea kingdom and then the quote explained that the King the leader of the kingdom and who has highest and big power or authority in his country that be conducted by a king. The country with embrace monarchy system surely will led by a king. Monarchy system a king is on duty as a president. Monarchy or government of empire system is the oldest system in the world. Garner (International Relations, 2016) said that every government that implement absolute power or highest authority to someone, without seeing the source of the basic properties of the election and the deadline for the post then the system is referred to as the system of monarchy.

### **3.1.2. Second Caste**

The second caste is actress (that includes likes professional athletes, pop star, model, politicians, police) military member, fireman, and guardian.

*On the other end of the spectrum, a girl in front of me had her up in a twist with little tendrils farming her face. The girl beside her, clearly a Two based on her clothes, looked like she was trying to drown the world in her cleavage. Several had on so much make up, they looked kind of like clowns to me. But as least they were trying. (The Selection, 2012:20)*

The quote above explained that the different caste can be seen by the clothes, because the Two base is one of the high caste in the Illea kingdom. There are

differences from others caste just can be seen by the cloths, especially for four castes from the bottom (fifth to eight caste). So, the caste can easily to know just by what there are wearing and anything that occur in that body. Someone who more modish and high class there are in their fashion, it can be proved that there are the high caste, because it will relation with how rich them.

### **3.1.3. Third Caste**

The third caste is the thinkers, inventor, teacher, philosopher, doctor, architect, library officer, therapist, film director, music producer, prosecutor, and writer. But in this novel, the girls who follow the selection their caste is change became third caste, although there are from caste number four until eight, during they follow the selection.

*“For each week you stay at the place, your family will be compensated. I will give you your first check before I leave. Also, should you not stay at the palace; an aide will help you adjust to your life after the Selection. Your aide will assist you with final preparations before you leave for the palace, as well as help you seek new housing and employment afterward.*

*“Should you make it to the top ten; you will be considered Elite. Once you reach that status, you will be required to learn about particular inner workings of the life and obligations you would have as a princess. You are not permitted to seek out such details before that time.*

*“from this moment on, your status is a Three.”*

*“A three?” Mom and I both exclaimed.” (The Selection, 2012:32)*

The quote above explained that, the contestant is became three base, but their status is just for a while. The new statuses for the girls who join this selection become Elite; the rich man and the people who occupy the position or occupation with high-value. This rule just applies for the contestant of The Selection, but their family is stay at their status. This competition is also as an occupation for the girls who join in the competition, because their family will be send a check each week.

#### **3.1.4. Fourth Caste**

The fourth caste consists of businessmen, leader of chef, real estate agent, factory worker, and farmer. This caste is the middle caste of the castes. Because the financial is average, but it can be worst or good depend on the caste that decided and rule their life.

*“I couldn’t blame him. If you were wealthy enough, you could regulate having a family. If you were a four or worse, they left you to fend for yourselves. This had been the subject of many an argument for us over the last six months, when we seriously started trying to find a way to be together. Children were the wild card. The more you had, the more there were to work. But then again, so many hungry mouths...” (The Selection, 2012:13-14)*

That quote above explained that the financial condition of the fourth caste is dependent with how many child they have. For the four or worse caste, this condition for their food that they have is not yet enough to live their family if they have many child. So, they will think twice to have more child. The four or worse is the caste that has much misery in the food consumption. But the Illea kingdom give an option of them who stay in the bottom caste (four until eight) to join the selection to reach the better caste and change the life.

#### **3.1.5. Fifth Caste**

The fifth caste is an artist too like second caste, but the fee is not reliable with second caste. Who include in Fives are stage artist, classic musician, singer, dancer, photographer, and circus man.

*“Our caste was just three away from the bottom. We were artists. And artists and classical musicians were only three steps up from dirt. Literally. Our money was stretched as tight as a high wire, and our income was highly dependent on the changing seasons. (The Selection, 2012:7)*

Based on the quote above, Fives is same like Two as artist too, but there is gap among of that caste it is the income. Fives has to really to think their expenditure because their income dependent on changing seasons. So that is the reason why Fives and Two is different although the occupation is same, as an

artist. Beside, income there is others aspect that make Five life in misery.

### **3.1.6. Sixth Caste**

The six castes are secretary, housekeeping and driver. Sixes in Illea Kingdom majority is as a servant. Since child, Sixes think that they were born to serve.

*“Aspen was a Six. Sixes were servants and only a step up from sevens in that they were better educated and trained for indoor work. Aspen was smarter than anyone knew and devastatingly handsome, but it was atypical for a woman to marry down. A man from a lower caste could ask for your hand, but it was rare to get a yes. And when anyone married into a different caste, they had to fill out paperwork and wait for something like ninety days before any of the other legal things you needed could be done. I’d heard more than one person say it was to give people a chance to change their minds. So us being this personal and out well past Illea’s curfew . . . we could both get in serious trouble. But to mention the hell I’d get from my mother.” (The Selection, 2012:11-12)*

Based on the quote above, Sixes is servant but there are educated and trained. Illea government gives policy about married cross the caste. It is mean that lower caste married with caste above them. When they will marry they should be fill out paperwork and wait

for ninety days before any legal. The reason is give people a chance to change their minds. But many women rare to give a yes when they proposal by lower caste then theirs

### **3.1.7. Seventh Caste**

The seventh castes are blue-collar workers, farmer, construction laborer, rubbish compiler, beggar and such.

*“I scanned the line. Aspen’s mother was right, and there was clear line between those who knew and those who didn’t. just behind us was a girl, obviously a Seven, still in her work clothes. Her muddy boots might not make the picture, but the dust on her overalls probably would. A few yards back another Seven was sporting a tool belt. The best I could say about her was that her face was clean. (The Selection, 2012:19-20)*

Based on the quotes above, it is explained that many girls of seven who join to Selection competition and many of them who work as a builder, because when they come in Selection they still wear their work clothes and sporting a tool belt. Many of them did not have nice clothes or clothes like a princess like Fives and Fours because there are lower castes. And for the others think, for their education those are in the same level with Sixes, just Study in public School with basic grade level.

### **3.1.8. Eighth Caste**



The eight castes or the lower caste likes medicine, sick people in mental and psychic, outcast, and country traitor. In Illea Regulation there is a role that must be obeyed in every caste (except Ones). The goal from the regulation is to keep the original line of the caste.

*“I was disgusted, revolted. The law, Illean law, was that you were to wait until marriage. It was an effective way of keeping diseases at bay, and it helped keep the caste intact. Illegitimates were thrown into the street to become Eights, and the penalty for being discovered, either by person or through pregnancy, was jail time. If someone was even suspicious, you could spend a few nights in a cell... (The Selection, 2012:33)*

Based on the quote above explained that Eights is the lower and alienated with other caste. The problems that always Illea face is when there is different caste who have sex before marriage and pregnant, they will throw the innocent baby into the street and the baby will become Eights without knowing their parents. But if the castes being discovered and will received the penalty is jail time from Illea government, so that is why the law is written. Beside that law that has a goal to protect the castes each other and to protect eights to reduce Illegitimates. The education is the sensitive theme in Illea, especially for each caste.

### 3.1.2 Discussion

Marxist in social stratification is the straight line that limit the castes each other. In this novel (*The Selection*) there are three castes that have big power and authority in Illea. Ones are who mostly have big power and authority. That is true that money is determinant of social classes. Money is the important role in giving a view about the background of families and ones way of life. The lower caste and not get better from economy and education. If the lower castes do not get good education and facilities of it that condition which make them become low and criminal and hard to get world of good. This education problem just can be meeting in Sixes, Sevens and Eights.

*“well, compared to the fancy-pants tutors someone like you has, the education system for Sixes and Sevens is terrible. I think getting better teachers or better facilities would do them a world of good. But then what about the Eights? Isn’t that caste responsible for most of the crimes? They don’t get any education. I think if they felt they had something, anything at all, it might encourage them.” (The Selection, 2012:103)*

Based on the quote above explained that lower caste is not yet to get facilities in education and in the others side Eights is that mostly be alienated from Illea and other caste because they full of outcast who is not be sin because their parents faults. Although the government give the way to change their caste by Selection competition but it is less effective way.

Based on the analysis from previous chapter, the study into two following conclusion. First, based on social stratification and Marxist analysis, explained that in *The Selection* novel is make based on occupation and position that they have in Illea, but caste forming is have make too based on where someone from without seeing occupation. In Illea country, caste is a symbol and status that be occur to indicate if upper caste is the caste that reside in and have life well than lower caste. It is can be deny that lower caste have many injustice and less in welfare to fulfill their needs. Social stratification has been made for describe of the way of life and people who stand in each castes. Social stratification is the class or strata that exist in the community since long time ago, that be classified based on what the community made by different characteristic in each layer. Social stratification is functional in the development of society and will be marked by increasingly complex social stratification (Purwanto, 2007:94). The caste classification in Illea country there is some factors that make the castes is become more specific to describe the peoples who stand in each castes. Horton (1999: 7-11) there are three factors that become standard in caste, two of them is occupation and education. Occupation is the kinds of occupation is realizing peoples that there is some occupation that more be honor than others occupation, in others word, the kind of occupation have higher prestige. It's caused prestige jobs on generally give higher earnings. Occupation is the one of best indicator to know way of life someone, so indirectly occupation is the best indicator to know someone's social classes. Second, Qualification (education) Social classes and

education influence each other at least in two points. First, higher education requires money and motivation. Second, type and high to low education affect the hierarchy of social classes. In some of view, education is more important than occupation, because education not only express job ability however express mental change, appetite, interest, etiquette, goal, and how to speak and changes in a person's overall way of life. Those two factors above are the aspects which more uppermost in *The Selection* novel to showing where someone is stand. Actually wealth and income it is the primary factor to classify someone to stand in where is they must stand in. the more wealthy a person the higher caste they also inhabit. Horton (1999: 7-11) that is true that money is determinant of social classes. Money is the important role in giving a view about the background of families and ones way of life.

#### **4. Conclusion**

Based on Social Stratification there is eight caste in *The Selection* novel. The caste as follows: (1) The first caste, the higher caste and owned by family kingdom and spiritual figure. This family kingdom consists of King Clarkson, Queen Amberly, and the prince; Maxon. There are highest caste and have big power or authority. (2) The second caste is actress (that includes likes professional athletes, pop star, model, politicians, police) military member, fireman, and guardian. (3) The third caste is the thinkers, inventor, teacher, philosopher, doctor, architect, library officer, therapist, film director, music producer, prosecutor, and writer. But in this novel, the girls who follow the selection their caste is change became third caste, although there are from caste number four until eight, during they follow the selection as Elite. (4) The fourth caste consists of businessmen, leader

of chef, real estate agent, factory worker, and farmer. This caste is the middle caste of the castes. Because the financial is average, but it can be worst or good depend on the caste that decided and rule their life. (5) The fifth caste is an artist too like second caste, but the fee is not reliable with second caste. Who include in Fives are stage artist, classic musician, singer, dancer, photographer, and circus man. (6) The six castes are secretary, housekeeping and driver. Sixes in Illea Kingdom majority is as a servant. Since child, Sixes think that they were born to serve. (7) The seventh castes are blue-collar workers, farmer, construction laborer, rubbish compiler, beggar and such. (8) The eight castes or the lower caste likes medicine, sick people in mental and psychic, outcast, and country traitor. In Illea Regulation there is a role that must be obeyed in every caste (except Ones). The goal from the regulation is to keep the original line of the caste.

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